

Additional Opportunities:

Family Interaction Program: Volunteers support children in out-of-home care by supervising the family interaction with their parents.

Pals Program: Volunteer mentors spend time in a recreational or learning activity with a child, age 3 or older, that has been referred by Brown County Child Protective Services. Volunteer mentors help the child adjust to the separation or loss of a parent, enhance self-esteem and confidence, and learn new skills.

Volunteer Drivers: Assist with transporting children and families safely to and from authorized visits and appointments.

Volunteer Guardians: A legal guardian is a decision maker and an advocate for those who are incompetent due to aging, a developmental disability, chronic mental illness or alcohol and drug abuse.

General Volunteers: If committing to a specific program does not fit in with your interests or schedule, Brown County Health and Human Services is always seeking assistance with miscellaneous tasks and events.

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About:

Parent Pals Program is a mentoring program of Brown County Health & Human Services. Volunteer Coordinators are responsible for recruiting and training volunteers. Once trained, volunteers are matched to a parent in need of additional support based on compatibility. Volunteer Coordinators provide support to matches as long as the volunteer and parent are involved in the program.

Volunteer mentors spend time building a relationship with their Parent Pal. Our hope is that mentors will help parents work towards making positive changes in their household and personal lives. Examples of interactions include:

- Role modeling nurturing skills to parents with their children.
- Assisting the family in establishing routine and organization.
- Assisting the family in learning daily living skills.
- Connecting the parents and children with other community supports, Neighborhood Resource Centers, school PTA, etc.
- Getting together for coffee or a walk

Qualifications:

- Must be 18 years old.
- Able to commit to spending time with their Parent Pal 2-3 times per month.
- To be reliable, consistent, and non-judgmental.
- Volunteers must hold a valid driver's license and carry the state legal limits of liability insurance on their vehicle if transporting families.

Responsibilities:

- To observe agency rules of confidentiality.
- To report any concerns regarding possible abuse/neglect.
- To attend volunteer group meetings which are typically offered every 6 weeks.
- Document the amount of time spent with your Parent Pal and submit the report to the Program Coordinator on a monthly basis.
- Submit mileage reimbursement on a monthly basis if

Note: Volunteers have the option to be reimbursed mileage on a monthly basis at the annually established rate.



Process:

Once you have decided to commit to the Parent Pals Program, we ask that volunteers complete formal applications and agree to attend orientation to the program.

- 1) Complete an application which includes consent to a background check and providing three references. We also request volunteers to submit a copy of a valid driver's license and verification of auto insurance with their application.
- 2) Once your application is processed, an overview of the program and training is provided. We learn more about you so that we can make the best match.
- 3) Once potential Parent Pals are identified, volunteers will be given the opportunity to learn about the Parent Pals and may select a parent/family they think will be the best fit for them.
- 4) Once a match is made the volunteer coordinator schedules a time to introduce the volunteer to the parent and their family.